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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Sheet <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>	Complete if Known	
	Application Number	10/564,170
	Filing Date	January 10, 2006
	First Named Inventor	Volker Krink, et al
	Art Unit	TBD
	Examiner Name	TBD
	Attorney Docket Number	51034.0000

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Patent or Publication Number	Issue or Publication Date	Patentee or Applicant	Class	Subclass
	6,232,575	5/15/2001	Oakley, Thomas F., et al	219	121.55
	6,359,251	3/19/2002	Picard, Tate S., et al	219	121.57

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Foreign Patent Document No.	Issue or Publication Date	Patentee or Applicant	Country	
	10263827	10/6/1998	Yashuiro, Asami	JAPAN	
	EP 0 697 935	4/21/1999	Couch, R., et al	EUROPE	
	DE 195 36 150 C2		Weizel, G., et al	GERMANY	
	Description: A means and method are provided for gas control of a plasma torch. Gas flow is set by an arrangement consisting of a proportional valve, a pressure sensor and a shield in the plasma torch.				
	DD 55437			GERMANY	
	Description: The document relates to a method for mixing a working gas and an additional gas in plasma cutting with high exit speed of the plasma jet. In front of a gas discharge chamber, a pressure drop is produced by a pressure shield. This does not solve the problem that gas mixtures cannot be reproducibly generated because the mixing ratio is very restricted.				
	DD 132247		Fronlich, H.	GERMANY	
	Description: A method is disclosed for mixing of gases. For example, for plasma cutting and using hypersonic nozzles. However, varying optimum mixing ratios required cannot be produced.				
	DE 201 21 641.8	3/20/2003		GERMANY	
	Description: A method is provided for supplying a plasma torch with a gas, mixed gas, or gas mixture in which the volume flow of the gas, mixed gas, or gas mixture is controlled. An arrangement is provided for supplying a plasma torch with a gas or mixed gas or gas mixture to the plasma torch and a volume flow control means controls the volume flow of the gas or mixed gas or gas mixture. However, the use of volume flow control alone does not allow for adequate quality of cutting, and can lead to unreliable piercing of the material to be cut, the formation of dross, and major deviations in angle that exceed allowable tolerances.				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

This collection of information is required by 37 CDR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 USC 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. this collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending on the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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